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Office of the Director
Group 3600

DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL
(COUNTER TERRORISM)

In re application of
Erick B. Knezek
Application No. 10/621,655
Filed: July 18, 2003
For: PROTECTION BARRIER APPARATUS

This is in response to the petition filed on July 18, 2003 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of inventions for countering terrorism as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 XI. The delay in deciding this petition is regretted.

The petition is GRANTED.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); and (B) a statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

Applicant's petition explains that the invention is directed to a protection barrier system for countering waterborne terrorist acts due to high speed boats or other types of watercraft attempting to penetrate a particular region in a body of water or abutting a body of water. Additionally, the invention falls into one of the types of inventions contemplated by MPEP § 708.02 XI (i.e., vehicular barricades/disabling systems).

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 XI have been met, the petition is GRANTED.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt ***bona fide*** effort, in response to each Office action, to place the

application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

SUMMARY: Petition to Make Special **GRANTED**.



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RAR/vdb: 7/8/04

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